(d) by when reply would be sent to all concerned after taking action in pending issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Quota for jobs in private sector

2894. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been negotiating with private industries for giving quota for jobs in private sector in the country; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to implement the voluntary quota for jobs in private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) In response to the commitment contained in the National Common Minimum Programme to initiate a dialogue with Industry and other associations to fulfill the aspirations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth, a Group of Ministers was formed. The Group met five times and also held consultations with the representatives of Apex Industry Associations. To carry forward the process of dialogue, a Coordination Committee was constituted. The Committee has so far held two meetings and also held discussions with Apex Industry Associations. The discussions have primarily centered around the measures by industry for enhancing their skill development and increasing employability.

Amendment in Persons with Disabilities Act

†2895. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to include persons suffering from Haemophilia, Thalesemia and Sickle Cell Anaemia in the list of disabled persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when this Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) The scope of the Act is to cover various disabilities and not diseases. Therefore, disabilities occurring due to disease are included in the Act. It is not possible to indicate any time frame for amendment to the Act.

Drug abuse in Punjab

2896 SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that drug abuse amongst the youth in Punjab has reached an alarming proportion;

(b) if so, whether Government have any figures of drug addicts in the State; and

(c) whether steps are being taken to open drug de-addiction centres in the State under the Central Government Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) There is no authentic data about drug abuse in the State of Punjab.

(c) Yes, Sir. At present, 20 De-addiction Centres are functioning in various districts of the State.

Fund for construction of Ashram Shala Bhawan

†2897. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide funds for construction of Ashram Shala Bhawans;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals of Madhya Pradesh and other States, which are under consideration of the Central Government; and

(c) the reasons of their pendency and by when the funds would be released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs grants funds to State Governments on 50:50 basis towards the cost of construction under the scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP areas.

(b) and (c) Proposals have been received from State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and UT Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.